(c) During the recent visit of the Raksha Mantri to China, extensive discussions were held between two sides. These discussions focused mainly on furtherance of trust and confidence between the two countries particularly in the defence sphere. The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere and reflected the resolve of the two countries to ensure peace and tranquility on the borders so that the two countries could concentrate on issues of national building and development.

Trishul Missile programme

296. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's short-range surface-to-air missile programme suffered a setback with all four Trishul' test-firings at Balasore failing to meet trial specifications;

(b) whether it has been decided to shelve the programme;

(c) if so, the details in this regard with amount earmarked and spent so far on the project;

(d) whether it is also a fact that on account of the failure of the project, the three services have been permitted to import short-range surface-to-air missiles; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. All the four flight tests of surface-to-air missile Trishul undertaken during 22nd-25th June 2003 have achieved all the mission objectives, such as proving the three beam guidance system, operation of the missile and ground systems in totality.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Trishul Missile development programme has been delayed due to technological problem and the project was delinked from the user services. In view of this, Services have been allowed to meet their urgent requirements through import.

Demining in Hira Nagar Tehsil, J and K

297. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: